

SAINTS MARKELLA AND DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

104 Bryn Mawr Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569

Office: 850-244-0822 Fax: 850-243-7995 Email: office@stmarkella.orgWebsite: www.stmarkella.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmarkellademetriusFather Thomas Guerry, Pastor Cell: 850-598-0152 Email: thomasguerry@gmail.com**Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)**

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as

they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

WORSHIP GUIDE

February 18, 2018

Resurrectional Apolytikion, Mode 4

When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ Our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.

Troparion of St. Markella, Mode 1

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

Troparion of St. Demetrios, Mode 3

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great mercy!

Kontakion of Cheesefare Sunday, Mode pl. 2

O wisdom's guiding star, of prudence provider, instructor of the foolish ones, and the defencer of the poor: support and give understanding, O Master, to my heart. You give me words, who are the Father's Word; for behold I shall not hold back my lips from crying out to you: O compassionate one, have mercy on me who has gone astray.

EPISTLE READING

Paul's Letter to the Romans (13:11-14; 14:1-4)

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 4.

Pray and return to the Lord Your God; all around Him shall bring gifts.

In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING

Holy Gospel according to Matthew (6:14-21)

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

TODAY WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Cheesefare Sunday
6:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, February 19

CLEAN MONDAY - LENT BEGINS

Presidents' Day - Office closed

Wednesday, February 21

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, February 22

11:00 am Greek Luncheon

Friday, February 23

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Salutations Service

Coffee Hour Host: *Open*
Next Week's Host: *Open*

Ushers and Greeters: *Cookie Kostopoulos, Steve Paros,
Jeanette Rosa, and Mark Simunovich*

Altar Boys: *Zacharias Fletcher, Nicolai Kasch, Jonathan Morgan,
Constantine Sneider, and Efstathios Sneider*



Facebook.com/StsMarkellaDemetrios
www.stmarkella.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THURSDAY GREEK LUNCHEONS

Our annual "Snowbird Greek Luncheons" have begun! Many thanks to all who volunteer their time to help. Please see Cookie Kostopoulos, Angelos Thomas, or Katrina Thomas if you can help. Set up starts at 9:30 am. Lunch is served from 11 am until 1:30 pm. Meals are \$9, including beverage.

COFFEE HOUR SIGNUP

A coffee hour signup sheet for the new year has been posted on the bulletin board leading to the hall. If you've never hosted, please consider doing so this year. Thank you to all our coffee hour hosts!

GREEK DANCE GROUP

Dance practices will be starting soon! This year we are looking to develop our youth dance group. If your child can stand in a line, count to ten, and follow directions, they can learn to dance. Of course, we are welcoming new dancers to our adult group as well. Please see Katrina Thomas or Molly Perkins if you're interested.

FASTING FOR LENTEN SEASON

Lent begins this Monday, February 19, with Clean Monday. Good Strength to everyone in the Fast!

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us today for worship. This is information to help make your worship experience more meaningful.

At 10:00 am the Divine Liturgy, which is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church, begins with the words from the priest “Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

The beginning of the service may be found on page 1 of the small red book entitled *The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*. Each Sunday the Epistle, Gospel, and certain hymns change to express what is being celebrated that day. This guide has them printed out for you so you may follow along more easily.

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your presence. For those who are not Orthodox Christians we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way. For Orthodox Christians, when in doubt whether to receive or not, please ask Fr. Thomas in advance and he will be happy to advise you.

For those of you visiting an Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, we pray that you have a very meaningful worship experience. Orthodox worship reaches all five senses. Through sight with the icons, church architecture and the movement of worship; through smell with the use of incense; through sound through the beauty of the Church music; through taste with the receiving of Holy Communion; and through touch with lighting of candles, crossing oneself, and the veneration of icons.

You will find that the Orthodox place a great emphasis on reverence in worship. Our reverence is serious, but also very joyful as well.

Please ask one of the attendants in the Narthex (the back of the church) if you have any questions. May God continue to bless and keep all of us.

PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Please bring names of your loved ones, both living and deceased, so the priest may pray for them. We pray for all people. With Divine Liturgy, the names of the Orthodox are commemorated during the Proskomidi (the Preparation of the Gifts) and during Liturgy.

Erica Ailes	Jake Hoskin	Anastas Pazevic
Katia Antonis	Cleopatra Hughes & Family	Wes Picard
Gene & Alexis Bass	Nancy Janos	Tina Puffer
The Boltz Family	Raymond Paul Johnson	Edward Scruggs & Family
Kathy Bowdoin & Family	Mary Spiridoula Kalista	Constantine Sneider
Lark Tringas Bostick	Philip Kanellopoulos	Steve Stephanopoulos
Mary Ann Carr	Sheree Kanellopoulos	Stanojka Stevanovic
Litsa Carrion	George Karov	David Stewart
Vonni Cobb	Craig Kasch	Janet Sutherland
Angela Walters Comfort	Georgie Kasch	Col. Philip Trexler
Max Copeland	Carl Kruljac	Sue and John Tullis
Jamie Douglas	Julie Mamani	Lou Vagias, Sr.
Fr. George Dursa	Angela McBroom	Dana Visoju
Dorothy Eshelman	Ariel McBroom	Badra Walters
Zachary Fletcher	Nicholas McBroom	
Chryssoula Henderson	Joey Newborn	All service men and women who are deployed overseas
Angela Hlavity	Butch Otis	
Jim Hobson	Janice Parton	

2018 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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STEWARDSHIP 2018

The following individuals/families have submitted a Pledge Card for 2018:

Tim & Vicki Boolos
Harold and Anita Diamond
Keith & Rebecca Fletcher
Zachary Fletcher
Alan and Mary Gardner
Susan Horner
Helen Kuritz
Connie Morgan
Matthew & Megan Morgan
Joe and Despina O'Neil
Patricia Overholt
Steve and Veta Paros
Alexandra LaRoche
Nicholas & Tanya Papadopoulos
Dale & Molly Perkins
Joan Salazar
Mark and Iris Simunovich
Nicholas and Candace Vlahos
Alex and Susan Tringas
John Walker
Joyce & Harold Walter
Mary Walters

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)